



# The Renaissance

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## Charter School 2

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monte Joffe

*Chairperson*

Liz Perez

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Rachel Mandel

Victor Motta

Leopolda Silvera

**APPROVED**

May 15, 2024

The Renaissance Charter School 2

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting convened at: 11:04 a.m.

1. Chairperson's Message – 3 minutes A cyclone of achievement!
2. Roll Call – 2 minutes
  - a. Members present - Monte Joffe, Liz Perez, Chester Hicks, Rachel Mandel, Leopolda Silvera
  - b. Members absent - Victor Motta
  - c. Non-members present - Daniel Fanelli, Stacey Gauthier, Everett Boyd
3. Approval of Last Month's Minutes – 5 minutes
  - a. Approved unanimously
4. Approval of Edited 990 form - Dan Fanelli - 5 minutes
  - a. Minor edits were made to the overall form. Four specific minor edits were made:
    - i. Total number of hours for Rachel Mandel on board,
    - ii. Per pupil revenue was incorrect by one value on page 10,
    - iii. Everett's name was on the wrong line and that was corrected,
    - iv. The Schedule R was corrected.
5. School Management Team Report – 10 minutes
  - a. Everett - Shout out to the team for holding a great lottery on April 19 and registration day last Friday May 10. Well-organized registration day and ongoing registration.
  - b. Still in hiring process. Almost finished with lower school hiring, still some demo lessons. Still working on HS hiring, and MS positions still need to be filled. One candidate for social studies position, and will be advertising for further positions to fill them as soon as possible.
  - c. Will be update at next board meeting for lower school and middle school APs, went through round of interviews last week.
  - d. Midterm renewal visit: May 2. NYSED liaison Brandy Marshall. The entire team was present: Dan, Stacey, Leopolda, Liz, CSG. Talked to teachers and SMT, along with classroom observations, held in almost every subject area. This visit was supposed to

happen last year and we worked to hold it ASAP this year so we can get feedback about where we are. Charter Application is due August 30 (was August 15). Some elements to the process that the board will be involved with, and we will be kept apprised of all of the progress and events. SMT and executive team has been working on it since the beginning of the year.

- i. Big question: How are we implementing the key design elements from the original charter? (e.g. collaboration, mission, student-driven, project-based learning, etc.) There was a meeting on Monday about what those elements look like in action. Brandi gave us feedback that we need to be succinct about our definitions of those elements.
- ii. Stacey: webinar with NYSED about the process. 17 schools are going through renewal. TRCS2 is the only school in its first renewal. Important to note that we are the only school being evaluated through the 2015 framework, other schools are being evaluated under 2019 framework. This week we will be getting a draft application, mostly similar to past applications. Core of renewal team is Wayne, Stacey, Dan, Everett, and Meredith. SED wants the original signed, notarized copy of the application, not a scanned copy.
  1. We should have a diversity and inclusivity plan prepared, similar to NYC Public Schools. When there are revisions, we normally have until December, but in renewal, they have to go in with the application in August.
  2. Discussion of composite score; long-term leases can cause the composite score to be reduced. Dan explained that we have added notes to the audit about that, and lots of people have that impact, so the state should be aware.
  3. Recruitment and retention of special populations (SWD, ELLs) and students whose families are in poverty is important, and the numbers are expected to be equal to or greater than the district. Forever ELLs--charter schools have a good record of students testing out of ELL classification, but the "forever ELL formula" doesn't benefit Ren2. We might be asked to implement a preference for ELLs in our enrollment. We need more clarification about this, because in the absolute data we do have higher numbers per grade. Similar issue with students who previously had IEP but were declassified. Based on our ELL enrollment over the past three years, we outpaced the district two out of three years. Our information was obtained from the SED website. We are trying to understand where the data is coming from so we can understand what the target is, especially if we are asked to do a preference. We can't access the information they are using.
  4. Janet Kline will be providing the data to schools before the renewal application.
  5. If the board and SMT decide that key design elements need to be altered, that is a material revision. Now is the time to come back and say that we don't want it. Monte: Vision needs to be discovered and processed, and the key elements are a reflection of the vision.
  6. For renewal application, they want master schedule information very specific and perhaps in a format different from the one we use.
  7. Brandy: There needs to be consistency in information across all areas--website, handbooks, what leaders say, etc. Everett is working diligently on this, and it will be presented to the board for approval between now and August 30.
  8. Discussion of consultants for renewal--they might bring in someone if there is a specific concern.

9. Important to keep board informed and have it offer direction.
  10. Recruitment and enrollment outreach and data updates with board important.
  11. Brandy would like to have a Zoom meeting with Monte and possibly the whole board.
  12. Liz and Leopolda reported back about the board interview on May 2. Discussion of board's strategic plan.
  13. Monte: Need to add visioning, etc. to agendas going forward. Important to talk about these things as centerpieces of professional development.
6. Board Members' New Business – 10 minutes
- a. SMT evaluation; time to go full into it
  - b. Happy to see Rachel again!
7. Public Speaking
- a. Monte asked parents to introduce themselves, several of them shared their names, children, and concerns.
  - b. Question about renewal process--how often? Stacey explained that the initial charter is for five years. After five years, the authorizer must come in to evaluate everything--academics, organization, financial, legal compliance. Worst-case scenario is to close a school down, which they have done (we do not expect that!). They can decide on a short-term renewal (1-4 years), or a short-term renewal with conditions (e.g. to raise the math scores or do more detailed financial reporting). Five years in the maximum, and a school can get five years with or without conditions. Our authorizer is the State Education Department. (NYC Public Schools, SED, and SUNY can all make recommendations for renewal to the Regents). The process is in charter law.
  - c. Monte noted that we value the voices of parents, and we will be doing outreach to ensure their participation in the process. There will also be a public hearing as part of the process, and parents will be encouraged to attend that and speak about the school
8. Adjournment of Meeting at 11:54 a.m.